

Suddaby's sizzler

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Tooting & Mitcham 1

PETER SUDDABY, Wycombe Wanderers' powerful England Amateur International centre half, netted one of the best individual goals of the season at Loakes Park on Saturday to put the "Blues" back in a commanding position for the Isthmian League title.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

... at the top

	P.	Pts.
Wycombe W.	36	58
Sutton United	38	57
Enfield	35	56
Barking	37	51
St. Albans	37	48
Hitchin Town	37	48
Hendon	37	48

● Table includes Enfield's 6-0 win on Monday evening.

In contrast, Tooting had little to offer. Only Alan Phillips held them together, and even he had a hard time, with little support.

The second half, though, was a complete contrast. Losing their midfield dominance Wanderers also lost all their rhythm and very nearly threw away their first half advantage and a point.

Kicking off 15 minutes late due to Tooting's travelling trouble on the M4, it was not long before Wycombe had the 2,043 crowd applauding when Tony Horseman, finding space just outside the area, rammed in a rising shot which forced goalkeeper Norman Stanley to dive into the air and save in typical fashion.

Then came Peter Suddaby's goal which set the ground buzzing for at least five minutes afterwards — and with good reason, for Stanley was rooted like a statue to his goal line and could only watch as the ball roared past him.

Tooting's first really dangerous move—they got off to a bad start with the defence looking very jittery—came when their only real danger man, Chris Kelly, took the ball up the wing. But the twin striking force of Hutchins and Cox overran his cross and the chance was gone.

Wycombe meanwhile were forever making short, sharp raids into the Tooting half with the forwards working especially well. In one of their attacks keeper Stanley sustained a knock and Alan Phillips was forced to take all the dead ball goalkicks.

With Wycombe's midfield menace eating up virtually all the possession and supplying

Peter's goal — a bullet of a drive from 35 yards — gave Wanderers their first half incentive to go out and try to break the solid Tooting defence.

Ken Jelly, Tooting's talented mid-field player, who scored the goal against Wycombe in their Amateur Cup replay, was booked in the final minutes after exchanging words with referee E. L. J. Press (Hemel Hempstead)—running his last game after 10 years' service to the Isthmian League.

Throughout the first half it looked as though they would swamp their South London opponents with dazzling football. The defence looked watertight, the attack was finding gaps and, as usual, the midfield trio were on top form.

By Stuart Earp

their forwards with plenty of good balls it was obvious that under such pressure Tooting would crack. Sure enough, in the 37th minute, Keith Searle won them a penalty.

Almost through the whole defence the centre-forward was pulled back by Paul Webb and referee Mr. E. L. J. Press signalled the penalty. John Delaney roared up to smash the ball past Stanley.

Now bursting with confidence, Wanderers showed some of the finesse of a team in great form. Some delicate, precision moves by Searle and Hutchinson particularly caught the eye.

In the closing minutes of the first half Tooting gave a hint of what was to come in the second half when Jelly and Kelly both went close to reducing the lead.

hots it up at the top

A diving save by Maskell from Kelly's free kick after only four minutes from the re-start saved the situation, but the usually safe goalkeeper was caught out on several occasions when Tooting's tall forwards challenged him to high crosses.

As Tooting improved, so Wanderers fell away—a part of their game which has yet to be conquered—and they soon lost their drive in the middle.

Hutchins shot wide with an easy chance before Tooting scored their goal. Kelly left Charlie Gale floundering for pace on the wing and his cross found Cox, who beat Maskell and nudged the ball out to Hutchins, who volleyed home.

A minute later the goalscorer was refused another "goal" for hand ball.

Then came the peculiar incident of Ken Jelly's booking. Jelly said something to the referee who produced his black book and immediately took his name.

Jelly told me afterwards, don't really know why he took my name. I just said to him 'you might as well stop it now'.

In the visitors' dressing room afterwards the Tooting players felt that the referee's handling of the game had been somewhat biased.

With two minutes remaining Keith Searle had the chance to make the game safe. But we put completely clear Keith Blunt (who was playing in place of Anthony), he flew his chance and shot wide, seconds later Tony Horseman lashed the ball into the net (to be given off-side).

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Ma D. Thomas, C. Gale; P. Suddaby, J. Delaney, J. Lalley; K. Blunt, Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, Hutchinson. Sub. V. Faulkner (used).

Tooting and Mitcham: N. Sta B. Feeney, K. Baker; D. Burke C. Barrett 45 mins.; P. Ga A. Phillips; P. Webb, K. Jelly, Hutchins, J. Cox, C. Kelly.